Chairman of STC

3532. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Sudhir Mulji, Chairman of the STC, is a British Passport holder;

(b) whether he has substantial financial interests in the UK including properties etc., and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of job/business handled by Shri Mulji during the last five years prior to his appointment as STC Chairman alongwith the details of companies and their locations; and

(d) the details of other Indian and foreign companies on which he is a member of Board of Directors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Shri Mulji's financial interests in UK are confined to certain insurance policies about which the Reserve Bank of India has been duly informed.

(c) In the last five years prior to his appointment as Chairman STC, Shri Mulji was Chairman of Great Eastern Shipping Corporation, London and president of that Corporation. He was also an outside Director of various companies located in England, America and Hong Kong.

(d) Shri Mulji is not a Director of any other Indian or foreign company at present except STC.

Prices of Cardamom

3533. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a policy for stabilisation of price of cardamom at levels remunerative to the growers and attractive to the consumers;

(b) whether Government are taking any measures to increase the acreage of cardamom cultivation;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will chalk out proposals for any subsidy and concessions for increasing cardamom cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The Govt. of India are taking a number of steps to increase productivity, production and export of cardamom. *Inter-alia* they include:

(1) Grant of Cash compensatory support and air freight subsidy for increasing export of cardamom.

(2) Market promotion programmes in West Asia, North African Regions, USA & Canada and West Europe.

(3) Marketing efforts by Spices Training Corporation Ltd., (formerly known as Cardamom Trading Corporation Ltd). including purchases by them locally.

(4) The STC and MMTC have also been requested to promote exports of cardamom.

(5) In addition, the Spices Board is operating a number of schemes such as replantation scheme, irrigation scheme, plant protection scheme for increasing productivity and reducing cost of production.

(6) Research work is also being carried out to develop new strains to increase production.

Feasibility study regarding location of Tehri Dam in the Himalayas

3534. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Environment sponsored a feasibility study